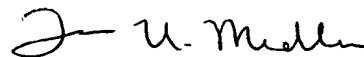


Remarks

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 16-20 are pending in the application, with claims 16 and 19 being the independent claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner give favorable consideration to the claims of the present application. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Teresa U. Medler
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,933

Date: 2/20/02

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600